



DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU, Acting Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: WM-6

July 29, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADOPT THE UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to authorize adoption of the Upper Santa Clara River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in accordance with Section 10541 of the California Water Code.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons cited in this letter.
2. Authorize the Acting Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to take the necessary action to adopt the Upper Santa Clara River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in accordance with Section 10541 of the California Water Code.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of these recommended actions is to adopt the Upper Santa Clara River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). This Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP was prepared under a joint effort between six public agencies, including the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD). These agencies have executed a Memorandum of Understanding to form the Santa Clara River Watershed Regional Water Management Group in accordance with State guidelines to address regional water supply needs, protect and improve water quality, provide flood management, and protect the environment. The Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP will guide regional efforts to meet these objectives and improve local entities' competitiveness for State and Federal grant funds.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Organizational Effectiveness (Goal 3) and Fiscal Responsibility (Goal 4) by utilizing a collaborative effort to implement projects and by actively seeking grant funds to augment the County's funding sources.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP is an advisory document and, upon its adoption, will have no funding obligation on the LACFCD.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act of 2002, as codified in California Water Code Section 10530 through Section 10546, provides the framework for preparation and adoption of IRWMPs in the State. California Water Code Section 10541(c) requires publication of a Notice of Intention to adopt an IRWMP in accordance with Government Code Section 6066 if three or more participants in the group propose to adopt an IRWMP. Additionally, California Water Code Section 10541(d) requires a determination to adopt an IRWMP after holding a public hearing.

On May 1, 2007, your Board authorized the LACFCD to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Santa Clarita, Castaic Lake Water Agency, Santa Clarita Water Division, Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District, Newhall County

Water District, and Valencia Water Company to form the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Regional Water Management Group.

The Regional Water Management Group worked collaboratively with local stakeholders in the development and the preparation of the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP in accordance with State guidelines to address regional water supply needs, protect and improve water quality, provide flood management, protect the environment, and establish a data management system to monitor the progress of these objectives. The Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP was completed on May 30, 2008, and a public hearing regarding the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP adoption was held on July 1, 2008. The Regional Water Management Group conducted the hearing, which was held at Hart Hall located at 24151 North San Fernando Road, Newhall, California.

Adoption of the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP will guide regional efforts to meet long-term water resource needs and will improve local entities' competitiveness for State and Federal grant funds, including implementation grant funding under Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E. It will encourage a regional approach to water resource management by establishing collaborative watershed-based efforts. It will also establish a framework to secure and administer future funding for water resource-related projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Adoption of the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP is statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 307.B.(7) of the Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987. This exemption provides for feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions, which have not been approved, adopted, or funded.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no adverse impact on current County services or projects as a result of this action.

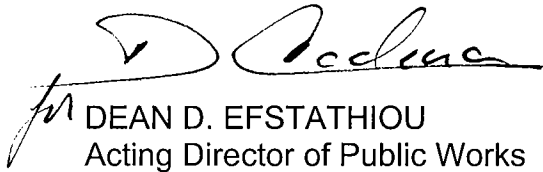
Adoption of the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP will encourage interagency cooperation to address water issues identified within the plan on a regional level. Projects included within the adopted Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP will be more competitive for State funding.

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CONCLUSION

Please return three adopted copies of this letter to the Department of Public Works,
Watershed Management Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Efsthaliou', with a stylized 'for' written to the left of the signature line.
DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
Acting Director of Public Works

DDE
MP:lm

c: County Counsel